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critical. One feature of the book, a characteristic of this series by the way, is a thirty-page analytical outline of the work in place of the ordinary table of contents. Just what purpose this serves, unless it is intended to save one the trouble of reading the book, it is hard to grasp.

Taken as a whole the work contains a mass of interesting detail, painstakingly and often painfully documented; for example, one chapter of sixteen pages has seventy-five footnotes. It is this superabundance of detail which gives ground for the most serious criticism of the work: one becomes lost in it, and the interest of the reader tends to flag as he wades through it.

LESTER B. SHIPPEE

Public life of Zachariah Chandler, 1851-1875. By Wilmer C. Harris, Ph.D. [Michigan historical publications, University series XI] (Lansing: Michigan historical commission, 1917. 152 p.)

This work is of special interest to students of Michigan politics in the period centering about the civil war and the rise of the republican party. From 1851 to his death in 1879 Zachariah Chandler was prominent in public life, and Mr. Harris endeavors to set forth the main features of his public character and career.

While the author admits that the well-known *Post and Tribune* biography is a mine of information about Chandler's career, he finds it not wholly impartial. Indeed it could hardly be so, written by Chandler's friends at a time when the stirring events connected with his life were still fresh in their minds. To ardent admirers of Chandler, Mr. Harris' book may seem not to have escaped the opposite bias. Certainly the author is not eulogistic. He presents Mr. Chandler as "a typical product of his time, a fire-eater of the Northwest, the representative in the United States senate of the radical spirit dominant among his constituents during the epoch of Civil War and Reconstruction." He sees him also as a typical "boss." It may seem to Chandler's friends that Mr. Harris has drawn too extensively upon the *Detroit Free Press*, which in that day was notoriously "copperhead" under the vitriolic pen of Wilbur F. Story, no friend of Chandler; if there was any one thing that Mr. Chandler hated more than another, it was the man who could not be trusted to stand "four square" on the war and its issues, and Mr. Story and Mr. Chandler were therefore natural political enemies.

The task of Mr. Harris, while a difficult one, has been on the whole well performed. He has evidently taken as a guide neither the hostile columns of the *Detroit Free Press* nor the flattering pages of the older biography. He has made much of the *Congressional globe* and the *Congressional record*, and there is evidence of careful use of standard biog-

raphies, histories, encyclopedias and monographs. The almost hopeless task of finding original manuscript letters by Chandler he accomplished in a degree. Some he located in the Library of congress, the Burton historical collections in Detroit, and a few in Marshall, Michigan, and in Lansing. The newspapers and periodicals of the day he has used quite thoroughly, especially Michigan newspapers. This data he appears to have used with the scholar's care.

The fact that Chandler was a practical politician and the boss of the republican party in Michigan is too well attested to need to rest upon the testimony of a copperhead journal. The most bitter arraignments of Mr. Chandler for his domination of the party in Michigan were made by members of his own party. Today we can afford to view these facts in their historical perspective. Ours is a government by parties. War demands a centralization of power. The republican party which controlled the government during the civil war had to be autocratic, just as President Wilson's power has been autocratic as a necessary corollary of the world war. Mr. Harris shows that Chandler's dictatorship in the republican party in civil war days made for efficiency and the better mobilization of the resources of the state for the support of the administration of President Lincoln; that to maintain this position Chandler used the practical political methods of his time; that indeed he could not have done otherwise and saved his opportunity.

In the latter part of the volume the author points out the results of Chandler's continuing in control after the passing of the need for autocratic party domination and the kind of politics to which Chandler was accustomed. During the earlier part of Chandler's career his power rested on the fact that he represented the will of a majority of his constituents, and he fortified this control through the organization of a party machine of which he was "boss." As the older issues faded away he continued in control of his party, less through his perfect representation of a majority of his constituents, and more through his control of party machinery. "It is a law of politics," says Mr. Harris, "that men who enter public life full of patriotism and enthusiasm for some great moral issue, once that object is attained, are not likely to see that new issues have arisen and that new problems have come to demand solution. They go on along the old lines. It was so with Zachariah Chandler." Chandler never forgot that the southerners had been rebels, and he was by temperament and experience unfitted to be a leader of Michigan republicanism in reconstruction days. When he could no longer retain even his control over the "machine," he fell from power. But his work was done, and Mr. Harris shows that he had played his part well. Despite the surface impression which the book gives of an

unsympathetic writer, a careful reading will show the writer's admiration for Chandler for his service to the nation in an hour of great need.

The book contains numerous illustrations of Chandler at different times of life, and is supplied with a bibliography and a good index.

GEORGE N. FULLER

A history of Indiana from 1850 to the present. By Logan Esarey, Ph.D., assistant professor of western history, Indiana university. Volume II. (Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen and company, 1918. 1148 p.)

This second and final volume of Mr. Esarey's comprehensive history of Indiana is, like the first one, a valuable contribution to the history of the middle west. It includes all the varied phases of Hoosier development since 1850, and is evidently founded upon an exhaustive and adequate search of the available source material. Most of the topics included in the work are treated in great detail and in comprehensive fashion.

Among the topics included in this volume, perhaps none is more important than the political history of Indiana since 1850. As a pivotal state in which the great parties are usually very closely matched, Indiana has assumed much importance in national politics during the period under consideration, and the play of partisan struggle, especially in the civil war and the era of reconstruction, is set forth in interesting fashion. Moreover, by the attention paid to the national background, the narrative rises above the level of a mere account of local petty politics. Unfortunately, at times there is confusion of national and state issues, as on page 610 where the author mentions the "election of 1852" but leaves the reader to guess whether a national or a local election is being considered.

Especially interesting and important are the accounts of the attitude toward slavery, of the underground railroad, of the rise of the republican party in Indiana, of the mysterious Golden Circle, and of the grange movement. In fact practically all the important features of the political history of Indiana since 1850 have been treated at length, and with due emphasis, but it is regrettable that so little attention has been given to the call for a constitutional convention issued by the general assembly in 1917. In the first volume of his history Mr. Esarey devoted an entire chapter to the constitutional convention of 1850. A well-balanced narrative would demand an equally extended analysis of the movement that culminated in 1917 in the very determined though temporarily ineffectual effort to call another constitutional convention.

The account of the military history of Indiana constitutes another exceedingly valuable contribution. The author gives in much detail the history of Indiana's part in the civil war, including, in addition to the